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SUBJECT 1. Tractor Works in Minsk and Environs
2. Airfield of the Tractor Works

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(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. August 1948 - May 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Location and Size

The Tractor Works in Minsk, located exactly five kilometers down the track from the main Minsk railway station in the direction of Borisov and Orsha, is bordered on the west by recently built housing developments, on the east by an airport, on the south by woods, and across the railroad line on the north by open country.

2. The grounds of the plant cover about a 1200 x 2000 meter area which is relatively thickly built up with large buildings, the majority of which are still under construction. By 1960, the date set for the completion of the plant, plans call for the employment of 30,000 persons. The buildings are constructed of red brick. The southern part of the grounds, which includes Objects 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, is fenced in with barbed wire. Only forced laborers (Strafgefange) work on construction in this area. With the exceptions of Objects 7, 11, 14, all buildings of the plant were erected just after 1945.

3. Production

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tractors are not yet being manufactured. Up to the present production has been confined to:

- Multiple plows for tractors - 3 or 4 extra-large (wirken übergross) plow shares, each 60 to 70 cm in size, 3 iron wheels.
- Boilers - 8 m long, 2.5 to 3 m in diameter, electrically welded, with various openings.
- Lattice-work masts for aerial high-tension lines, 2 brackets (Armature), 30 m high.

The above products are manufactured in the following amounts:

Large plows - 2 units weekly
Boilers - 1 every three weeks

Lattice-masts - 1 to 2 weekly

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4. Personnel

The number of employees, including construction workers, is estimated to total about 3,500 to 4,000 persons. They work in "two rhythm shifts": the largest shift of about 2,500 worked from 0800 to 1700 hours with a pause for lunch; the smaller shifts ran from 0600 to 1400 hours, 1400 to 2200 hours, and 2200 to 0600 hours. PWs worked only on the main shift which, however, was not confined to construction. The forced laborers worked separately.

5. Power

The factory is building its own power plant. Meanwhile, electricity is drawn from the Minsk power supply.

6. Raw Material

Material for the lattice-masts (angle iron - Winkelreisen) arrives at the plant already cut to specifications. Other angle iron, flat iron, and round iron arrive mostly in one-meter-long pieces. Two-centimeter-thick steel plates measuring about 1 x 2 m and 1.5 x 3 m and other iron plates of various sizes with a thickness of 1 to 2 cm are also brought into the plant. Crushed coal (Bröckelige) arrives two to three times a week in four-axled railroad cars.

7. Airfield

Located directly east of the tractor works, the field covers a 2.5 x 3 kilometer area. There are no buildings or lodgings at the field with the exceptions of the loading ramp (B) and a small, single-storyed airport administration building of light brick. (C)

At the time of observation the field was occupied by: (D)

Approximately twelve Po-2 type planes as well as a new training plane, a low-winged monoplane, reminiscent of the Klemm 3h, with airfoils at an obtuse angle to the fuselage, no retractable landing gear, tail unit rounded off. Also observed were a faster type plane (Yak III ?), used for target-tow practice, and two cargo or troop carrying gliders.

There are occasional night flights and landings of the usual type of two-motored transport planes (presumably from other fields). Flight training is almost uninterrupted throughout the year. Only during the heaviest snow thaw is the field unused. Civilians are given six-week flight training courses. About 30 to 35 men in civilian clothes are brought from Minsk daily in trucks. Six to eight planes at the most are in the air simultaneously.

8. Power Plant of the Tractor Works (E)

The power plant is located in a wooded area south of the airfield, about 200 m north of the railroad spur which leads to the auto works. The latter plant is about 2.5 kilometers east of the tractor plant. About 50 m south of the airfield an east-west street leads to one of the work settlements (about 1.5 km long) which straddles the railroad spur. This settlement begins opposite the power plant and consists of several large, whitewashed, multi-family buildings. They are built around a 60 x 30 m court between the street and the railroad line.

The red brick power plant without chimney is about 30 m high, 40 m wide. The building is approaching completion, and [redacted] the generators and turbines were being installed. [redacted] about 6 or 8 of them which were approximately 1.50 m high and others of various sizes stored at the plant.

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Key to Attachments I and II

1. New building, bare brick, 150 x 50 x 25.
2. " " same size as building 1. In the eastern part, the first beams have been laid; in the western part, the walls are half-built.
3. " " 200 x 80 x 25 m, brick work finished. A large travelling crane with cabin (built in a Moscow plant) was finally installed.
4. " " (since 1948), 150 x 100 x 20. Northern part offices on three floors.
 - a. saw tooth 4a. Apparently a future warehouse, 50 m long. Iron shelves assembled here.
 - b. Contains compressors and drilling machines, and three large transformers, one with designation "650 KW".
 - c. Auto repair shop. These objects carry the designation "MDS".
5. Cement mixing plant, 30 x 40 x 12 m, wood and solid construction, metal chimney.
6. Building, under construction, 60 x 30 x 15 m. Several large ventilators installed.
7. Pre-war, three-storied building, 180 x 15 m. Serves as shelter for about 200 Komsomol apprentices (boys and girls) as well as a grocery warehouse and Lagerkonyoi. Foundations for a 50 m-long southern annex to this building remain uncompleted. It encompasses a part of the P" camp. Tracks ran through the plot but were torn up in the spring of 1949. It is expected that the building will be completed.
8. Wooden cement sheds, 10 x 30 m.
9. Building 60 x 150 x 8 m. Boilers are finished here.
- 9a Northwest corner, about 30 m long, raised (18 to 20 m high), forge(?), 2 compressed air hammers.
10. Large building in bare brick with raised ridge about 148 x 80 x 30 m. Cement floor. The lattice-masts are soldered together here. Foundry for canalization pipe (1 furnace).
- 10a West wing of building completed for office space. Part of it not yet occupied.
- 10b Transformer station.
11. Forced Labor Camp (Strafgefangenenlager), pre-war building, 3-storied, 50 x 40 x 15, plastered.
12. Iron warehouse, plastered, 12 x 50 x 6.
13. Warehouse and compressor station for diesel compressors, cinder block construction.
14. Fire Brigade, half destroyed old cement building, 20 x 30. 3 fire engines (ZIS).
15. Small building with high windows, 12 x 40 x 10. Use unknown.
16. Welding plant for metal plates, 10 x 10 x 5.
17. Oil depot, white brick construction, 10 x 10 x 5, 2 tanks (Zisternenkessel) 4 to 5 m long and 2m in diameter.
18. Welding plant for small parts, wooden construction, 10 x 15 x 6.
19. Gas station, concrete slab covered with a wooden cabin and appliances.
20. Three wooden barracks, 10 x 25 x 5. Contain German, English, and Italian lathes, turret lathes, stamps, drilling machines - a total of about 50 pieces, which are to
21. Building, 10 x 30 x 12. A large grab crane stands before it. be installed.
22. Small repair workshops, 10 x 20 x 5.
23. Joinery, 20 x 50 x 5.
24. Carpentry, same size as 23,
25. Carpentry, as above.
26. Gatter, 15 x 30 x 15.

A. Street bunker or guard post (Strassenbunker) of German construction, cement 3 x 6 m, machine gun slits on all sides. Located immediately south of the main railroad line at the entrance to the works.

B. Loading ramp, 60 x 5 m, adjoins railroad spur which skirts western end of airfield.

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E1. The three-storied, red brick administration building of the power plant (15 x 35 m) is located in the north angle between the street and the railroad spur.

F. "Steel Construction"

Located about 1.5 km east of the power plant between the railroad spur and the street running south of it. It consists of a large, isolated building (18 x 40 x 70 m) with cement floors, and serves as a storehouse for steel plates of 5mm thickness and more, and also for iron plates and bars.

G. A small, empty building belonging to the "Steel Construction".

Auto works

25X1 [redacted] it is located about 1.5 kilometers east of the "Steel Construction" and that it employs many P.S.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: The tractor works was called "Traktor Zavod". The factory bus carried the sign "Traktor Zavod" and a symbol which contained a tractor within a small center circle and the letters "MDS" between the inner circle and the larger outer circle.

Encl: Attachment I (Minsk Tractor Works, Installations, and Attachment II (Surrounding Areas

25X1 [redacted] Comment: Explanation for item N in Attachment I and for items C, D, & E in Attachment II were not included in the legend.

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